

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5177

UNCLAS TEHRAN 0633

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN INTEREST IN REVIVING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION  
AGREEMENT

1. AT REQUEST OF MR. HOSSEIN SHOJAI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIATT CALLED ON HIM AT MINISTRY JAN 21.

2. MR. SHOJALI RECALLED THAT IRAN - U.S. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT HAD LAPSED IN 1971. GOI FEELS THAT SOME SORT OF NEW UMBRELLA AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND U.S. IS NEEDED TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION FOR COORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION. SHOJAI MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY VALIDATION OF CAPABILITIES OF AMERICAN GROUPS PROPOSING COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. GOI FEELS RESEARCH IN DESERT ECOLOGY IS OF GREATEST IMMEDIATE INTEREST BUT THAT OTHER FIELDS MIGHT BE TAKEN UP LATER UNDER A GENERAL AGREEMENT, JUST AS IRANIAN SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WITH USSR NOW OPERATING IN SEVERAL FIELDS IN ADDITION TO PROBLEM OF CASPIAN POLLUTION.

3. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEW AGREEMENT, AND THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, WHICH SUPPORTS THAT BODY, WOULD SERVE AS EXECUTIVE AGENT. PROJECTS WOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO THOSE PROPOSED BY THE MINISTRY, AND THE MINISTRY WOULD EXPECT TO SUPPORT WORTHY PROPOSALS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES AND AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTES. (OTHER CONTACTS HAVE INDICATED THAT GOI  
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MIGHT ALSO WELCOME COOPERATIVE RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY OF THE PERSIAN

GULF AND IN HEALTH EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES.)

4. SCIATT RESPONDED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THESE IDEAS BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMITMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER IN LIGHT OF ABOVE ITS POSITION ON THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT WHEN SUBJECT OF RENEWAL AROSE IN 1971.

HELMS

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